



D.Rothenberg

UPDATE

Winter 2001

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This spring will mark seven years since the completion of the Long Island Sound Study's (LISS) Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). Anyone involved then would have been pleased, given a peek into the future, to see the progress being made to implement it today. But over time, any plan, no matter how good, needs to be reviewed and its priorities adjusted. Conditions change, events occur. Just as you adjust your family's financial plan to account for additions to the family or changes in market conditions, the cleanup plan for the Sound needs to stay current and incorporate new information and thinking. Commitments need to be renewed and strengthened.

Recognizing this, the Long Island Sound Study's Policy Committee met this September and charged the LISS Management Conference with developing a *Long Island Sound 2001 Agreement* for adoption by the New York and Connecticut Governors in September 2001. The *Long Island Sound 2001 Agreement* will update the 1996 LIS Agreement on CCMP implementation. It will go further in establishing priorities by setting targets and time frames for further implementation of the CCMP. The successes in establishing clear targets and timetables for nitrogen reduction and habitat restoration will be pursued for other CCMP areas such as watershed protection, open space, reserves, living marine resource populations, and toxin, pathogen, floatable, and nonpoint source pollutant reduction.

One way to get involved in this effort is to attend the 11th annual Long Island Sound Citizens Summit on March 2-3, 2001. This year's summit, co-sponsored by the LISS and the Long Island Sound Watershed Alliance,

will bring agency staff, researchers, environmental organizations, and citizens together to discuss the state of the Sound and priorities for its protection and restoration. In addition to hearing presentations on the health of the Sound, conference participants will be able to attend smaller breakout sessions to exchange their views with others on priorities for the future. Registration information is enclosed in this newsletter on page 3.

The LISS Policy Committee took other noteworthy steps at its September meeting, signing a habitat restoration Memorandum of Understanding with eight other federal and state agencies. The habitat restoration plan, adopted in 1998, set goals to restore at least 2000 acres of coastal habitat and 100 miles of river for migratory fish passage by the year 2008. The Memorandum of Understanding established the roles and responsibilities of the Management Conference partners in meeting these goals. The day's agenda also included updates on the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for nitrogen. The TMDL allocates allowances of nitrogen among sewage treatment plants and industrial and nonpoint source discharges necessary to attain a 58.5% reduction overall by 2014. The draft TMDL was released for public comment in October 1999. The final TMDL was submitted in early January to EPA for adoption. These examples show that efforts to restore and protect the Sound are alive and well. The challenge ahead is to set a common vision of what we want to accomplish by the year 2005. That's what the *Long Island Sound 2001 Agreement* can do.

Mark Tedesco

CAC CORNER

by David J. Miller

It is hard to believe that we have reached the year 2001. From 1990 to 2000, so much has been done for Long Island Sound. Unprecedented dollars have been invested in Long Island Sound by New York and Connecticut to reduce hypoxia. On the federal level, after an eight year campaign, the Long Island Sound Restoration Act passed Congress, authorizing \$40 million dollars a year for five years to further implement the Sound's nitrogen reduction program to address hypoxia.

Long Island Sound has also received greater attention in habitat restoration, establishment of parkland, and the need for further research. We began in 1990 with the first *Listen to the Sound* program to generate citizen support and ended the year 2000 with the finalization of the report from the second *Listen to the Sound* program, which calls for stewardship and protection of open space around its shores. Much has been done, but the job is far from over.

Therefore, this year marks a critical time in the Long Island Sound Study (LISS) to celebrate our successes and reaffirm our

commitments for the future. In 1994 and again in 1996, the states of Connecticut and New York along with the Environmental Protection Agency signed agreements to implement the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for Long Island Sound. It is time to bring our governors together again to build upon our achievement and set the course for the beginning of the new century. The LISS Policy Committee embraced the concept of an updated *Long Island Sound 2001 Agreement* with an anticipated signing date for the fall.

There is much to celebrate for the Sound, but to keep the celebrations going and the CCMP on track, agreements with milestones are important. The Chesapeake Bay program, which revises its governors' agreements every few years, has taught us this lesson well. The LISS Citizens Advisory Committee will be an active participant in the agreement process and looks forward to your support to make it a success.

David Miller is the New York Co-chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee and is the Executive Director of Audubon in New York.

September and December 2000 CAC Meetings

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) met in September and December 2000 and took several significant actions. The CAC agreed to form a new Living Marine Resources Subcommittee to help focus attention and action in this critical area of the CCMP. The subcommittee met twice via conference call, and elected CAC member Jennifer Wilson-Pines of the Manhasset Bay Protection Committee as its chair. The CAC also recommended that the LISS Management Committee consider reviving its own Living Marine Resources subcommittee to complement the work of the CAC in this area. The Management Committee will consider this issue at its April 19, 2001 meeting.

Save the Date

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2001 in a western Long Island, New York location. Call the EPA Long Island Sound Office at (203)977-1541 or check the LISS web site at: www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis/calendar.htm for the schedule of 2001 CAC meetings.

Sound Health 2001

The Summer/Fall 2000 issue of **UPDATE** introduced you to the **Sound Health 2001 - Status and Trends in the Health of Long Island Sound**. We hope that the three indicators highlighted in that issue piqued your interest into the other 16 indicators. During the spring, coastal Long Island Sound regional newspapers in Connecticut and on the north shore of Long Island will insert **Sound Health 2001** into an issue of their Sunday paper. Additional copies will also be available by calling (203)977-1541, (860)424-3276, (631)632-9216, or by visiting the Long Island Sound Study web site at www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis.

LISWA/LISS Summit
State of the Sound: Priorities for the Future
March 2-3, 2001
New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, NY

The eleventh annual Long Island Sound Summit will be a two day event this year, co-sponsored by the Long Island Sound Watershed Alliance (LISWA), Save the Sound, and the Long Island Sound Study.

The purpose of this two day conference is to provide a forum to discuss the current state of the health of Long Island Sound, progress in the cleanup efforts, the challenges ahead, and priorities for addressing these challenges. The conference will support development of a *Long Island Sound 2001 Agreement*, an update to the 1996 Long Island Sound Agreement on the implementation of the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP). The *LIS 2001 Agreement* will more clearly define desired outcomes of CCMP

actions in measurable, trackable terms, better link monitoring/research and environmental indicators to environmental goals and results, maintain momentum for CCMP implementation, reaffirm implementation priorities, and address emerging issues. The *LIS 2001 Agreement* will be developed using a consensus-based approach coordinated through the LISS Management Conference.

The first day of the conference will begin with a series of introductory presentations about Long Island Sound - past, present, and future followed by breakout sessions keyed to the major issues identified in the CCMP. Participants in the breakout sessions will voice their views on progress made to date and priorities for the future.

Day two will begin with a session

focused on the Long Island Sound Reserve concept, followed by a brief summary of recommendations from the first day, with commentary from panel members comprised of public officials.

Advance registration for the two-day conference, which includes a continental breakfast on both days and lunch on Day One, is \$30. The cost for seniors/students to attend the two-day conference is \$25. Advance registration for Day One only is \$20; Day Two-\$10. Prices at the door will be higher. The deadline for pre-registering is February 19, 2001.

For more information regarding details and registration for the conference, please contact Robin Kriesberg at 1-888-SAVE LIS or email rkriesberg@savethesound.org.

Register Now by forwarding this form to: LISWA Conference, c/o Save The Sound, Inc., 185 Magee Ave., Stamford, CT 06902, Fax (203) 967-2677, email rkriesberg@savethesound.org
Please Print:

Name: _____ Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Registration Fee (includes materials, continental breakfast, Friday lunch):

In advance: \$30 both days, Day One - \$20, Day Two - \$10

Seniors/Students: \$25 for both days

At the door: \$35 both days, Day One - \$25, Day Two - \$15

Payment: (make checks payable to Save the Sound, Inc.)

Charge my Master Card or Visa (circle one) for \$ _____

Account Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Legislation / Regulation Updates

Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000

The Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-457), was signed by President Clinton on November 27, 2000. This Act provides a strong federal commitment and resources to restore habitat in America's estuaries, which are critical to the vitality of coastal ecosystems and essential to the nation's economy.

An Estuary Habitat Restoration Council of federal agencies will develop a national estuary restoration strategy with a goal of restoring 1 million acres by 2010. The bill authorized \$275 million of federal matching funds over five years, up to a maximum federal share of 65% per project.

The bill also includes the authorization of up to \$40 million annually for the next five years to the Long Island Sound Study. A portion of the money, if appropriated, would be available to provide financial assistance to municipalities to upgrade some of the 40 sewage treatment plants located on the Sound in New York and Connecticut.

New Summary of Final Total Maximum Daily Load Rule Available

A summary of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) rule is now available on the Clean Water Network's web site at www.cwn.org. Click on TMDL's, or view the entire ruling via the EPA web site at www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/finalrule.

Conservation And Reinvestment Act

Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) has a long history grounded in the spirit of the early conservation movement, continuing a program designed to promote the federal acquisition of land for the national park system, while also providing funds to help state and local governments meet a broader set of outdoor needs. In 1964 President Johnson approved a bill creating the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), emphasizing federal, state and local partnerships, long-term planning, permanent acquisitions, and urban recreation. The program was strengthened during the late 1960s by utilizing money from offshore oil and gas leases to fund LWCF projects, and this initiative has helped states and localities acquire 2.3 million acres of parkland and added 3.4 million acres of new federal lands. After 15 years of maintaining the promise to fund these projects, large chunks of fund revenues have been redirected to other budget items, creating a staggering backlog of federal, state, and local land protection needs.

Congress approved and President Clinton signed legislation to spend about

\$12 billion on local, state, and national land conservation programs over the next six years. The legislation is a scaled-back version of CARA which would have provided \$3 billion annually over 15 years. This bill calls for spending \$1.2 billion in the fiscal year that began October 1, 2000 and gradually increase to \$1.8 billion annually over the next five years. This would provide the LWCF with \$540 million in the coming year. In addition other state programs would get \$300 million a year while urban parks, forestry, and historic preservation would get \$160 million. Another \$150 million annually would be used to address the maintenance backlogs on federal land, and \$50 million will be used to reimburse local governments with large amounts of federal land for lost tax revenue. It is not yet clear how these pots of money will be divided among the states.

Another part of CARA which would provide assistance to coastal areas is still awaiting final action. The original legislation called for \$1 billion to be available annually for coastal projects. The new program calls for \$400 million this year increasing to \$600 million over the next five years.

B.E.A.C.H. Act is Signed by President Clinton!

The Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act of 2000, (HR 999) amends the Clean Water Act to require ocean, bay, and Great Lakes states to adopt minimum, health-based criteria for water quality, and requires comprehensive testing of recreational beach water for bacteria and pathogens. The public must be notified when contamination levels make beach water unsafe for swimming, surfing, and other activities. The bill authorizes \$30 million over five years in federal grants to help these states and local communities develop and implement effective water quality monitoring and public notification programs.

The information on this page was obtained from Save the Sound, Inc. and the December 2000 ChesapeakeBay Journal.

Research on Long Island Sound

by Rick D'Amico,

The biennial Long Island Sound Research Conference (LISRC) provides a forum for research related to Long Island Sound. It began in 1992 in response to a recommendation by the Long Island Sound Assembly. This year's LISRC was held at the University of Connecticut's Stamford Campus on November 17th - 18th, 2000.

The first session of the Conference dealt with historical conditions in Long Island Sound. Subjects during this session focused on benthic foraminifera, physical oceanographic conditions, postglacial sediments, and patterns of fouling communities in the Sound over the years.

The next session dealt with nonpoint source pollution. Topics during this session focused on mercury, bacterial causes of the release of methyl bromide to the atmosphere, and atmospheric nitrogen deposition in the Connecticut drainage to the Sound.

The third session dealt with marine ecosystems. During this session, presentations showed how fish utilize *Phragmites* and *Spartina* marshes, how the Japanese shore crab has become a dominant species along a portion of shoreline, and how fish communities and eelgrass beds are related.

The topic of the fourth session was diseases and pathobiology. Presentations were made on oyster defenses against parasites, the pathogen *Brucella* in marine mammals, a review of the recent lobster die off in the Sound, and detection of pathogens in oysters.

The second day of the conference opened with a session on sediments and monitoring. Topics included sediment contaminants, and physical processes in and around sediments, and the time series water quality monitoring of the MySound EMPACT Project.

The subject of the sixth and last session of the Conference was water quality, nutrients, and algae. Presentations focused on nitrogen uptake by a local species of seaweed, nitrogen reduction and water quality conditions in the Sound, interpretation of ocean color in near-coastal areas, and bioremediation of nutrients by seaweeds.

There was also an excellent poster session, which was held at the conclusion of the first day's presentations. Proceedings of the Conference will subsequently be published for those who did not attend, or would like written record of the conference.

Rick D'Amico works for New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and is the New York State Coordinator for the Long Island Sound Study.

Order Research Conference Proceedings

Copies of the proceedings from the Research Conferences held in 1992, 1994, 1996, and 1998 can be obtained now from the Long Island Sound Foundation. Copies of the 2000 proceedings, once printed, will be made available. Place your order on the web site www.lisfoundation.org, by mail to Sue McNamara, UCONN, Marine Science Department, 1084 Shennecossett Road, Groton, CT 06340, or e-mail mscadm05@uconnvm.uconn.edu for copies of the proceedings.

LIS LOBSTER ABUNDANCE

by Carl LoBue

The CT DEP has released its annual fall lobster index generated with data from the LIS trawl survey. The fall lobster index is the geometric average catch of lobsters per tow each fall. Traditionally the survey has not sampled in the western most portions of the LIS that were most affected by the mortality event in 1999. Although these areas are currently sampled there is no reliable abundance history from that area. The 2000 fall index is the lowest it has been in the last decade. However it is still higher than levels observed for much of the 1980s. A more comprehensive analysis of this information is needed to compare the size structure and areal distribution of the current LIS lobster population to past years.

Preliminary landings data suggest there was a large decrease in the 2000 lobster landings compared to the past few years. Conversations with lobstermen suggest that many lobstermen from western LIS ports significantly reduced their fishing effort or did not fish at all in 2000. More time is needed before the total LIS lobster harvest can be finalized.

At sea observers from NY DEC noted that the lobsters that were caught appeared to be generally healthy looking throughout the summer and fall of 2000 and that few lobsters appeared limp or dead in traps as was observed in the fall of 1999.

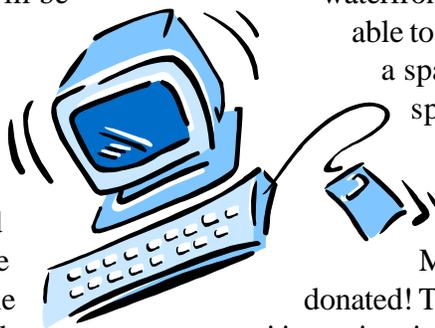
Ten lobsters from each of five zones throughout the LIS were tested each month in 2000 for the presence of pathogens at the Department of Pathobiology at UCONN. Many cooperating lobstermen contributed portions of their catch for this study; results have yet to be released from UCONN.

Carl LoBue works for New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

On-line Auction Launched to Help Restore Our Nation's Bays and Estuaries

Think of the fun you can have buying exciting and unique on-line auction items knowing you are helping to raise funds for our nation's bays and estuaries. The nation's 28 National Estuary Programs (NEP) and their Association of National Estuary Programs (ANEP) will be hosting an on-line "charity" auction where people like you can go on-line and bid on fun and unique donated auction items. The proceeds from the sale of the tax-deductible donations will go to ANEP, but your local NEP will receive a percentage (up to 40%) of the proceeds from the items donated by your NEP community. Together, the NEPs and ANEP (a 501(c)(3) non-profit) provide local and national efforts to restore our nation's estuaries, bays, and lagoons.

Are you looking for a unique birthday present, an anniversary present for your parents, or some fun for you and your family? Some possible prizes on the auction may be a boat ride, fishing trip, or kayaking trip in your local bay



or estuary. Or, you may find out about a week or weekend vacation in a summer home – maybe in Puerto Rico, or in Seattle! Or a ski vacation at a home in Utah! There may be concert tickets, a catered food party, or dinner for four at a fine restaurant or at a waterfront bistro. You may be able to bid on a weekend at a spa resort, tickets to a sporting event, or a parasailing weekend. We are also trying to get a ride on a Mardi Gras float donated! The auction will have exciting, unique items that you can't find elsewhere!

If you have Internet access, just go to www.ebay.com and select: "Charities" to see how easy it is! Visit the e-auction, view unique items, and decide if you want to bid on one or more of them. If you are the highest bidder, you will pay ANEP directly and then ANEP will contact you to coordinate the shipment of your "prize." Please tell all your friends to check out the ANEP charity auction site on eBay! If you or someone you know would like to donate an auction item which could be credited to the Long Island Sound Study please contact Dawn Volk.

For more information about ANEP or the auction, please contact Dawn Volk, ANEP, at (703)333-6150 or drvolk@erols.com.

**IT'S FUN, IT'S EASY, AND
IT'S FOR A VERY GOOD CAUSE!**



US Postal Stamp Campaign for Estuaries

During 2000 the Long Island Sound Study (in cooperation with the US Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, the Association of National Estuary Programs and the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association), sent a proposal to the US Postal Service requesting development of a series of postage stamps celebrating estuaries - areas of environmental, economic, and cultural importance. If selected, the new series, *America's Estuaries*, would illustrate bays, inlets, and harbors from across the nation, while possibly highlighting the most ecologically significant plant and animal life found in the 28 National Estuaries and 25 National Estuarine Research Reserves.

The proposal was submitted to the US Postal Service Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee in Washington DC. The Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee will decide whether *America's Estuaries* is chosen to become a series of postage stamps. The Advisory Committee meets quarterly to decide on stamp subjects and makes recommendations to the Postmaster General.

To show your support for this initiative, please send a postcard or letter to Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, c/o Stamp Development, US Postal Service, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Room 4474E, Washington, DC 20260-2437.

Dredging Update

Dredged Material Disposal Effort Continues

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being developed and produced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region I and II, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England and New York Districts (ACE). An EIS is a document that assesses the potential environmental impact of a proposed action. In this case the proposed action is the designation of one or more disposal sites in Long Island Sound for dredged material.

Final reports on the field work that was conducted over the past year are nearing completion. The following is a list of reports available on the Long Island Sound EIS web site www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis/reg.

- #1. Working Group Meeting Reports
(July 2000 working group minutes)
- #2. Workshop Proceeding April 2000
- #3. Oceanographic Report 2000
- #4. Maps
(various maps from meetings)
- #5. Sediment Toxicity Report
(Winter field work)
- #6. Field Summary Report (Feb. 2000)
(This includes sediment and benthic sampling, sediment grain size, and benthic community).

Reports on the field work completed in 2000 will be posted on the web site over the next few months. These reports are on benthic tissue

collection, lobster tissue collection, finfish collection, benthic community, and finfish sampling. All reports still need to be analyzed for the EIS.

Studies being conducted from now through Spring 2001 include facilities survey work, Geographic Information System (GIS) data, and upland disposal site research. The facilities survey work involves developing a comprehensive list of marine facilities around Long Island Sound and conducting a survey of those facilities. GIS data is being gathered from various sources such as National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, EPA, ACE, U.S. Geological Survey, National Marine Fisheries Services, the states of Connecticut and New York, and others. Some of the data layers to be gathered are political town boundaries, nautical charts, field work sites, Disposal Area Monitoring System (DAMOS) database, and historical sediments. Upland research will be conducted to produce a draft list of possible upland disposal sites and the criteria used in drafting the list.

Please contact Ann Rodney at US EPA, New England Region, One Congress Street, Suite 1100, CWQ, Boston, MA 02114-2023 (617)918-1538 or rodney.ann@epa.gov should you have any questions.

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If you would like to be placed on the mailing list or make changes to your address please contact the NY LIS Office.

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www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis

Long Island Sound Study Supporting Agencies:



US EPA
www.epa.gov



CT DEP

dep.state.ct.us



NYS DEC

www.dec.state.ny.us

LISS Awards 15 Grants

The Long Island Sound Study announced in December 2000 that 15 community projects throughout the Sound's watershed were funded through the Public Participation Information and Education grants. The 15 recipients were selected from 34 proposals. The funded projects focus on controlling nonpoint source pollution, teacher training, habitat restoration, community involvement and education, and water quality monitoring. The grant recipients **in Connecticut** include the Bruce Museum, Clam Watch 2000, Connecticut Sea Grant, Fort Saybrook Monument Park Association, National Audubon Society, Nature Center for Environmental Activities, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut, Save the Sound, and SoundWaters. **New York** grant recipients include the American Littoral Society, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, Long Island University, Trout Unlimited, and the Westchester County Planning Department (2 projects). More details on the projects funded can be found on the web site at www.epa.gov/region01/eco/lis.

This is the seventh year of funding for the grant program. Since 1995 a total of 58 projects have been funded for over \$200,000. The next request for proposals will go out during the summer of 2001. If you are interested in being placed on the Long Island Sound Study Small Grants mailing list, contact Kimberly Zimmer at (631)632-9216 or visit the Long Island Sound Study web site for more information.

Calendar of Events

February

ANEP Auction. Check out page 6 for more details.

24th Wet and Wild on LIS Educators Workshop. Contact the Kellogg Environmental Center in Connecticut at (203)734-2513.

March

2nd-3rd LISWA/LISS Citizens Summit. Check out page 3 for registration.

8th CAC Meeting. Contact Joe Salata (203)977-1541.

11th-15th National Estuary Program meeting Washington, DC.

April

19th Management Committee meeting, Stamford, CT. Contact Joe Salata (203)977-1541.

22nd-25th The 57th Annual Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference, Saratoga Springs, NY. Contact NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (518)457-9435

May

6th-12th Water Week in New York. Contact Sharon Thatcher at NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (518)485-8743.

11th-12th, and 14th Wet and Wild on LIS Educators Workshop. Contact the Kellogg Environmental Center in Connecticut at (203)734-2513.

12th-19th National River Clean-Up Week. Contact (865)558-3595 or www.americaoutdoors.org/nrcw/natao10.htm.

25th Long Island Sound Day.

June

8th-10th NYS Marine Education Association Meeting, Southampton, NY. Contact (631)632-9216 or <http://members.aol.com/nysmea>.

14th CAC Meeting. Contact Joe Salata (203)977-1541.

UPDATE

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